



M E D I A R E L E A S E

STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Council Hosting Hope Awards Breakfast

What: Tennessee Youth Advisory Council is hosting the Hope Awards Breakfast for members of the council and for staff from DCS. Awards will be presented to those who have made a significant impact on the lives of teens.

Where: McGruder Family Resource Center; 2013 25th Ave. North

When: May 19, 8:30-10 a.m.

About the Advisory Council:

- The Tennessee Youth Advisory Council at Vanderbilt University is a group of youth, ages 15-24, who have been or are currently in foster care and reside in the greater Nashville area.
- Their mission statement reads, "We are a committed group of diverse and unified youth dedicated to improving the lives of youth and the foster care system."
- TYAC is housed at the Oasis Center, www.oasis.org, through a partnership with the Vanderbilt Child and Family Policy Center, Monroe Harding, United Way, DCS and NCAC. Funding for the TYAC comes from the Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative (www.jimcaseyyouth.org).
- TYAC works with state and local policymakers to reform the foster care system in Tennessee, improve the lives of youth in foster care, and ease the transition for youth aging out of foster care.
- TYAC members work on initiatives such as providing mentors for foster youth, increasing housing and job opportunities for youth aging out of foster care, legislative issues affecting foster youth, and recruiting foster parents.